

Book Reviews.

TRAITÉ PRATIQUE DE RADIOGRAPHIE ET DE RADIOSCOPIE, TECHNIQUE ET APPLICATIONS MÉDICALES. A. Londe, Director of the Photographic and Radiographic Department of the Salpêtrière Hospital; Laureate of the Academy of Medicine; of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. Gauthier Villars, Paris, 1898, pp. 244.

The well known reputation of this author as an expert photographer of medical cases makes him particularly well fitted to give information regarding this new and important method of diagnosis. His book is a most complete and practical exposition of the technique and application of Roentgen's discovery to medicine and surgery. While dealing very practically with each step, it is not so long as to be tedious or so short as to be valueless, each part receiving its full share and consideration.

The illustrations of apparatus are profuse and well explained, and give the reader a knowledge of their uses, varieties, and the conditions which make the employment of each necessary and most valuable. We note, however, that the self-regulating shunt circuit tube which was devised and perfected in this country is reproduced with some slight modifications, but without giving credit to its inventor, Mr. Sayen. Its use is not appreciated either, for the self-regulating device is only described as adjusting it to the particular coil or apparatus used to energize it. Its value in producing the different qualities of Roentgen discharge seems to be entirely unappreciated, and as we look further through the book there is no mention made of the different qualities of the Roentgen discharge produced by varying vacua, and of the varying results that may be produced by their employment. This lack of knowledge probably accounts for the statement later on that the diagnosis of calculous nephritis is impossible. The absolute positive and negative diagnosis of this condition is possible and depends on the varying qualities of the Roentgen discharge, a low vacuum discharge being required.

We note, however, with pleasure that the author insists that the localization of foreign bodies is practical, and that mathematically accurate results can be attained if precise methods and instruments are employed. This chapter is very instructive, and the methods employed have a simple, yet absolute foundation on mathematical principles.

In the application of the Roentgen ray method of diagnosis to medicine and surgery, we note its employment in determining the lack or arrest of development of the osseous system in certain affections. The author illustrates this by a case of myxedema which shows in a series of skiagraphs the changes produced by thyroid treatment. The study of the different forms of infantilism is also practical in its value. Anomalous developments in the osseous system are noted. Observations have been made in cases of macrodactylitis and infantile paralysis; in hemiplegia and atrophy the bones of the sound and affected limbs have been compared and the differences even of their structure distinguished. As an illustration, a case of de-

forming osteitis of Paget is beautifully depicted. The condensing and rarifying varieties can also be separated.

The deformities of gouty and rheumatic arthritides can be distinctly perceived and differences noted. In the application to the thorax we find an omission of thoracic aneurisms and their differentiation from new growths of the mediastinum.

The various surgical applications have their due consideration, and the value of this method of diagnosis receives in this book a substantial confirmation.

The student will find it a work that is of great value to him in gaining the requisite knowledge of the technique of this method of diagnosis.

CHARLES LESTER LEONARD.

VERMISCHTE AUFSÄTZE. (V. Heft der Neurologischen Beiträge), von P. J. Möbius, Leipzig. Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1898, pp. 173.

As indicated in the title, this is the fifth volume of neurological fragments that have come from the author's pen. As stated in the preface, the others have had their readers, if not many, still appreciative ones, and the writer hopes that this new volume may have as fortunate a fate. That it will, we can have little doubt, both from the suggestiveness of much that it contains and from the variety of its subject-matter.

Some of the topics discussed are: The Classification of Diseases; Hemihypertrophy; The Treatment of Persons with Nervous Disease, and the Arrangement of Institutions; Short Sketch of a Monastery; Remarks Concerning Priority; The Causes of Diseases; Concerning Smoking; In Memoriam, J. M. Charcot; and many other sketches of varied character.

In all this variety there is something of interest to everyone. Facts of daily life and of medical import are regarded from the point of view of the philosopher, and as philosophical reflections the author no doubt intends his essays to be judged. Considering the necessity that most of us are under to spend our time and mental effort in the grasping of multitudinous facts, it is a relief, at times, to read something in the general field of medicine, of more literary pretensions. Möbius' book affords a certain satisfaction to this want, and to those who wish to vary their professional reading with the semi-scientific essay, we do not hesitate cordially to recommend this collection.

E. W. TAYLOR.

JAHRESBERICHT ÜBER DIE LEISTUNGEN UND FORTSCHRITTE AUF DEM GEBIETE DER NEUROLOGIE UND PSYCHIATRIE. Herausgegeben von Dr. E. Flatau und Dr. L. Jacobsohn in Berlin, Redigiert von Professor Dr. E. Mendel in Berlin. Erster Jahrgang. Bericht über das Jahr 1897. Verlag von S. Karger, Berlin, 1898. 30 marks.

There is probably no domain of the medical sciences that needs a more painstaking and thorough research than that of neurology, and of late years the workers in this chosen field have been more than usually active. Thus a positive necessity has arisen for some sort of a general reference work of wider scope and better classification than was afforded by the standard journals in the French, German, Italian and English languages. When it is borne in mind that there are at least 60 journals alone devoted to the study of neurology and psychiatry and its related branches, it is evident that a "Jahresbericht" has become a crying need. S. Karger, of Berlin, has furnished us with this volume, and medical science in general, and neurological